

# MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS

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## RETURNING TO THE PAST? THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF COMMUNIST ELECTORAL VICTORY IN POST-SOVIET MOLDOVA

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Moldova, a small post-Communist state, has been struggling with the challenge of economic and political development since its declaration of independence in 1991. As a result, the Communist party, once discredited and even outlawed, has seen its popularity soar from a 10% voter support in 1996 to 50% in the 2000 elections, which brought them to power. The vagaries of the electoral law translated this 50% support at the polls into a 70% share of the seats in parliament, an overwhelming majority that allows them to govern without compromising and to change the Constitution at will. In any new democracy, this kind of concentration of power is a worrisome development; in Moldova, it is particularly worrisome because of the authoritarian tendencies of hardliners within the Communist Party. This thesis seeks to examine the implications of the recent elections on Moldova's democratic transition and democratic future, and on U.S. and international efforts to assist the democratic transition.

**KEYWORDS:** Moldova, Post-Soviet, Post-Communist, Transnistria, Transdnistrea, Dneister, Democratic Transition in Europe, Russia Foreign Relations, Russia-Belarus Union, State Partnership Program, Civil-Military Relations, Nationalities in Former Soviet Union, Romania, Romanian Language Group, Partnership for Peace, GUAM

## NEW TERRORISM? A CASE STUDY OF AL-QAIDA AND THE LEBANESE HEZBOLLAH

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In recent years, scholars have argued that the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century saw the emergence of a new type of terrorism distinct from that which the world had suffered since 1968. The argument presented in this thesis is that there is no such thing as new terrorism. In spite of a few terrorist "spectaculars" in the last decade, the evidence suggests that in organizational and ideological terms, terrorism has changed little in the last 20 years. The case studies of *Al-Qaida* and the Lebanese *Hezbollah* are used to support this argument.

This thesis looks at key scholarly conceptualizations of new terrorism and applies these to *Al-Qaida* and the Lebanese *Hezbollah*. This study reveals that rather than conform to new terrorism, *Al-Qaida* can be better described as a traditional terrorist organization. Key similarities between *Al-Qaida* and the Lebanese

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*Hezbollah* show the continuity in international terrorism over the period of the last 20 years. This finding is important as the United States government ponders on the best approach in dealing with the current threat from *Al-Qaida* following the 11 September 2001 attacks.

**KEYWORDS:** *Al-Qaida, Hezbollah, Terrorism, Osama Bin Laden, Weapons of Mass Destruction*

### THE MILITARY AS A HINDRANCE IN MEXICO'S CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY

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The argument in this thesis is that the Mexican military stands as a hindrance in Mexico's consolidation of democracy because of the lack of executive and legislative controls over the armed forces, and military prerogatives. The loss of power by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) left a void of control over the military and no other legal mechanisms exist to control the military. The military's prerogatives include a unique relationship to the chief executive, active-duty military participation in the cabinet, a role in intelligence and police functions and others. These prerogatives make them autonomous, intrusive in society, and are turning the country into a militarized zone, and when coupled with the lack of controls over the military, equates to a volatile mixture needing only a spark to set off an explosion of military contestation of authority. A threat to their prerogatives by politicians or the president could in the future be the spark that ignites that dangerous mixture into a contestation of authority that hinders the democratic process.

Finally, the problems with insurgency, drugs, and crimes have caused the government to leave the affairs of internal security to the military, giving them more prerogatives. As a result, the military has expanded its presence throughout Mexico and fulfills many functions in society, and when coupled with a lack of executive and legislative controls over the military, hinders the consolidation of democracy.

**KEYWORDS:** Mexico, Transition to Democracy, Consolidation of Democracy, Mexican Military, Civil-Military Relations, Autonomous, Counter Drug, Counter Insurgency, High Military Prerogatives, Obstacles to Democratization, Militarization, Lack of Democratic Controls over the Military, Internal Security Threat, Police Missions, Intelligence Functions, Humanitarian Functions